

service projects at retirement communities in Chelsea, Detroit, and Ann Arbor, all of which have made a true difference in the lives of many families around Michigan.

Specifically, there are projects across mid and Southern Michigan, such as the Alzheimer's/memory loss unit at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital or the soon to open 120-bed Alzheimer's and memory loss facility in Chelsea, that would not have been completed without the work, leadership, and commitment of Mr. Foote. These projects have made and will continue to make a positive difference in our community and to our families.

Mr. Foote leaves his post as a nationally recognized leader in the field of long-term care. But most importantly, he ends his tenure after serving the people of Chelsea on the highest level. I thank Mr. Foote for his service and dedication and I wish him and his family the very best in the future.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH CITIZENSHIP ANNIVERSARY OF EMERY GROSINGER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to make a special tribute to a proud American who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his U.S. citizenship.

Emery Grosinger came to our country more than 50 years ago as a young boy who had already endured a lifetime of hardship. Born in a part of eastern Europe that has passed back and forth between Romania and Hungary, Emery at the age of 10 was deported, separated from his family, and sent to concentration camps, including Auschwitz. He survived and came to the United States after World War II. He served in the Army, started a business, and raised a family.

Mr. Grosinger is having a celebration for being an American for 50 years. But all of us in America also need to celebrate his 50 years as our fellow American. His life and his passion for freedom and for justice are part of what makes our country great. How fortunate we are to live in a country that stands as a beacon of freedom for the world. How fortunate we are that America looks not to where you are from, but to what is in your heart and where you are going. People like Emery—whose hearts led them to America and whose love for our country enlightens us all—give our country hope and a bright future.

Mr. Grosinger loves America, and I am proud to extend to him my most heartfelt good wishes in honor of the 50th anniversary of his U.S. citizenship.

REORGANIZING GARY BRYAN FILLETTE'S WINNING ESSAY

HON. JOHN COOKSEY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, The Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsor a yearly scriptwriting contest and I am proud to represent the win-

ner from the State of Louisiana, Mr. Gary Bryan Fillette of Alexandria. Gary wrote an excellent script on "My Voice in our Democracy" and I submit it to be made part of the permanent record. I hope that my colleagues will take a moment to read Gary's words and that we all remember what a great privilege and responsibility we have in representing the ideals that he expresses.

"MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"—1997-98 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

(Gary Fillette, Louisiana Winner)

When a baby wants something done, he has a way of letting everyone around him know. No matter if he's in his crib or at a crowded mall, he catches the attention of everybody with his distinctive cry, and keeps crying out until someone does something to satisfy him.

I learned from a baby. In a democracy I must freely and adamantly express my ideas until others listen to what I say. With my voice, I help fulfill my ever-present duty to improve America for both present and future generations.

I have a privilege that not all humans have. As an American, I have a voice in a democracy, and I have to use that voice if democracy is to mean something to me. For over 200 years, Americans have risked their lives for our nation. To show respect for these men and women, the least I can do is take what they have given me—a democracy—and support it vocally with my ideas.

Not everyone has the privilege to voice their opinions. In China, the government silences any utterance that opposes the government. In the Tiananmen Square demonstrations, the Chinese government muted the cries for more democracy and less government corruption by murdering 500 to 1,000 innocent Chinese citizens, leaving the democracy movement in ruins. Unlike China's citizens, I can speak about my government whoever and wherever I desire. I did not just get lucky, though. The lives of dedicated men and women in the Armed Services had to be sacrificed so that I could have my voice in our democracy.

Unfortunately, many young Americans often feel as though their opinions are too inferior to mention. Contrary to this belief, as an American citizen from birth, I have always had the responsibility to contribute my ideas to our nation. As a baby I cried at the top of my lungs for something, probably not patriotism; but then, as I became a young child, I learned what was important in my life as an American. I learned to say "The Pledge of Allegiance" and sing "The Star Spangled Banner." I did not just recite these familiar patriotic words. I respected what they stood for—freedom, democracy, and liberty, all made possible by the men and women whose blood was shed so that mine could flow. As I grew older and taller and my voice began to crack, I contributed my ideas as a Boy Scout. With an even deeper voice, I have spoken in mock governments and voted in mock elections as I learned more about the government at Boys State. I speak to others about our democracy in patriotic speech programs. As an adult, my voice will carry even farther, as I run for office or speak in favor of new ideas at election time. And most importantly, my voice will be heard with my vote: the single, most important characteristic of our democracy.

Without my voice and yours, the word democracy means nothing to us. Consider what a government of the people and by the people, would be if all the people were silent. It would be an idea that everyone thought was great, but it would remain just that: an idea. Fortunately, colonists, like Josiah Quincy,

spoke out against oppression in favor of independence. Quincy stated, "Under God, we are determined that whosoever, whensoever, or howsoever we shall be called to make our exit, we will die free men." These words helped inspire the fight for an independent nation. The formation of our democracy was not, however, a stopping point. We must continue to support our government with our voices. In the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights I am guaranteed the all-important freedom of speech. By freely voicing my opinions alongside other Americans, our democracy can thrive "for the people."

Although the audible characteristics of my voice have changed during my lifetime, what my voice has said, has always been loud and clear. Just as a baby's voice catches the attention of everyone, my voice is an intercom to spread the word to others of the importance of each individual in our democracy. Experiencing gradual pitch changes, my voice is also an instrument to show respect for those who sacrificed their lives for mine. In the future, my voice will continue to be a tool to repair and strengthen our democracy for future generations. The next time I hear a baby cry, I'll appreciate his expressions of his ideas, however loud they may be, and follow his example as I cry out for democracy.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING KRISTIN WARNER, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Kristin Warner, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Kristin is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Kristin is an exceptional student at Jonesville High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Kristin is the team captain for the school Quiz Bowl and a member of the schools S.A.D.D. program. Kristin is also involved with varsity track, cheerleading and cross country. Outside the school, Kristin is involved with various community activities.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Kristin Warner for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To his remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

CHELTHENHAM UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS 125TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on September 27, 1998, Cheltenham United Methodist Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary. This white-framed country church in Cheltenham, Maryland has been serving the religious and secular needs of its community since 1873 when its founders met under the chestnut trees that grew where the church now stands.

Although small in size, Cheltenham Church is very active and has a number of ministries that reach out to the local community and beyond. A few of their many activities include serving meals at the Hughesville Shelter for Battered Women, making 1000-plus sandwiches for the homeless for Martha's Table in Washington, D.C., contributing to the Upper Marlboro Food Bank, assisting patients at St. Elizabeth's Hospital at their Sunday church services, and sponsoring several needy families in the area.

Cheltenham Church is an excellent example of late 19th century rural church architecture. Among its other features, the original door-knob and chandeliers remain. The pulpit, still in use today, was made from a cherry tree that fell on church property before the church was built. The bricks for the foundation were hauled from nearby Nottingham by horse and wagon and had been used during the 18th century as ballast in English ships.

Although the church stands a short distance from a major highway, it retains much of its historic setting, buffered by its historic graveyard. It is a noticeable landmark in a still rural area of Prince George's County.

To the members of Cheltenham United Methodist Church, and to their members who have gone on before, we congratulate you on your 125 years of service to your church and to your community!

INTRODUCTION OF TAX LEGISLA-
TION TO CLARIFY TAX TREAT-
MENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX
REDUCTION VOUCHERS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation along with several of my colleagues of the Massachusetts Delegation to correct the tax treatment of real property tax reduction vouchers received in exchange for volunteer work.

The House of Representatives in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has passed legislation that would exempt real property tax vouchers received in exchange for volunteer work from income for state tax purposes. Similar legislation is pending in the State Senate. Many towns in Massachusetts have implemented a program which allows senior citizens to volunteer in exchange for a voucher of \$500 to be used towards their property taxes.

Seniors can volunteer to work in libraries, recreational centers, parks, and senior centers in exchange for a voucher to be applied to their property tax.

This program benefits both the community and the individuals volunteering. My legislation would allow vouchers received in exchange for volunteer work to not be included in gross income. The legislation also exempts these vouchers from employment taxes. Senior citizens who are age 65 are eligible for this legislation. The effective date is for payments made after January 1, 1999.

This legislation enhances an important program that is currently taking place in many towns in Massachusetts. I hope that we can address this issue this year and that there will be an appropriate legislative vehicle.

IN HONOR OF THE ISRAEL CENTER
OF HILLCREST MANOR'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the members of the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor as they join together to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the synagogue. Through the insight of such dedicated and talented community members as Joe Goldstein, Eric Gerstel and Sydney Abrahams, the synagogue's first president, the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor came into being in 1948, the same year the State of Israel was created. Through unique determination and an indefatigable spirit, these men went from door to door throughout the Flushing, Queens neighborhood building up both spiritual and financial support to establish this synagogue.

Since its inception, the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor has brought to the community a sense of dedicated service and a foundation of stability that has allowed its membership to raise their families and incorporate all age groups into an environment sensitive to their needs.

The Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor, under the leadership of Rabbi Michael Strasberg, its spiritual leader for more than two decades, and its current president, Leo Lederer, has continued the record of service and caring that is the hallmark of this great house of worship. Having provided the Flushing community for half a century with a vibrant Hebrew School, youth program and a highly effective Men's Club and Sisterhood, the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor is now prepared to lead its members into the second half century of fulfillment.

There are few organizations that have emerged with a continuous record of compassionate achievement as has the Israel Center of Hillcrest Manor. I ask all my colleagues to rise with me in congratulating the synagogue, its members and officers on this wonderful achievement and extending our warmest support for another fifty years of service.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING AN-
NETTE LEAZENBY, LEGRAND
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Annette Leazenby, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Annette is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Annette Leazenby is an exceptional student at Waldron High School and possesses an impressive high school record. She has been involved with the National Honor Society. Annette is also involved with the high school band and the drama club. She is a member of the varsity basketball, volleyball, softball and track teams. Outside of school, Annette has been involved in volunteer work at her local church, and is taking college classes.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Annette Leazenby for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

IN COMMEMORATION ON THE
FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF VIET-
NAM HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the Fourth Anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day. I would also like to congratulate the International Committee for Freedom for organizing this important event and I commend the participants who have come together to promote human rights for Vietnam.

I would like to take this opportunity to call on the Government of Vietnam to respect fundamental human rights and release their religious and political prisoners. The people of Vietnam have waited too long for these basic changes to take place.

By commemorating Vietnam Human Rights Day, we confirm the necessity of placing human rights at the center of United States policy toward Vietnam.

We, as a nation, and as a people, need to be steadfastly committed to human rights, democracy, economic liberty and religious freedom for all the people of Vietnam.